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Winter 2013 Edition

Megan Maxwell, Editor

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2012: Banner Year

at the Museum of the Cape Fear!

BY MEGAN MAXWELL



community and southern North Carolina.

Highlights of these efforts include *The Queen Anne's Revenge* exhibit from March-June which was visited by more than 6,000 people. To promote the exhibit, the museum hosted "Pirate Fun Week" for young students on spring break offering a week of fun and unique pirate themed activities. The

The Museum of the Cape Fear just might be the "little museum that could!" 2012 boasted double digit increases in monthly visitation numbers, thanks in part to new and innovative programs and partnerships within the Fayetteville community. The MCFHC was drastically impacted by state budget cuts, including a 50 percent decrease in our operations budget and the loss of eight full time staff members in 2011. Remaining staff members worked diligently in 2012, recruiting volunteers, planning special events and hands-on programs, bringing in new exhibits, reaching out to local schools, promoting the museum complex, and finding alternate funding sources all in an effort to increase awareness about this historical gem and prove its viability as a cultural and educational resource for the local

NC Department of Cultural Resources "2nd Saturdays" programming evolved into "Summer Arts Fest" at the museum drawing local craft vendors and visitors in June, July, and August. New attractions, such as the Tryon Palace Fife and Drum Corp, and advertising drew crowds for the annual "Festival of Yesteryear" in September. The new 1897 Poe House Education Coordinator, Megan Maxwell, conjured her passion for Halloween by transforming the house into the scene of an early 20th century Hallowe'en party for "Hallowe'en at the 1897 Poe House." Elaborate reproduction decorations and a partnership with actors from the Gilbert Theater made this program a great success and guaranteed its return as an annual event. Finally, our "Holiday Ju-

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2012: Banner Year at the Museum of the Cape Fear CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

bilee” ended the year on a festive note with songs by the Coventry Carolers, a local Victorian caroling group, and a fun toy workshop for the kids!

You might be wondering, how is all of this possible with such a reduced staff and budget? The answers are simple: volunteers, grants, donations, and a great benefactor in the MCFHC Foundation, Inc. More than 50 volunteers stepped up to the plate in 2012 to cover essential duties including greeting visitors at the front desk, giving tours, and assisting with special events. Grant funds through the Youth Growth Stock Trust provided reimbursement to Cumberland County schools for bus fuel and substitute teacher pay so more students could visit the museum. The Cumberland Community Foundation Summertime Kids Grant provided funding for our week long summer camp for ages 9-12. The Florence Rogers Charitable Trust awarded funding to purchase interpretive clothing for “The Festival of Yesteryear” and other colonial programs. In addition, sponsorships and individual donations contributed to advertising and supplies for many special events. Partnerships with the Lafayette Society, Gilbert Theater, and PWC helped to promote and enhance events. Funds from the MCFHC Foundation, Inc., the non-profit support group for the museum complex, also played a major part in allowing programming and events to go on as usual in these difficult times.

But perhaps the most important ingredient in this recipe for success is an enthusiastic staff committed to being creative, stepping outside the box, and working as a team. Look for more great programming in 2013, beginning with our Civil War Quiz Bowl on January 24. Other scheduled events include War of 1812 Bicentennial and Civil War Sesquicentennial programs in March and April. We’ve got big plans for this “little” museum and we can’t wait to share them in 2013!



Top Right: Staff and volunteers dressed as pirates to entertain the kids during Pirate Fun Week in April.
Middle: The Tryon Palace Fife and Drum Corp perform for the crowd at the Festival of Yesteryear in September.
Bottom: The Gilbert Theater partnered with us for “Hallowe’en Revels: Night Tours of the Poe House.”

Exhibit Explores Racial Strife in Reconstruction NC

BY DAVID REID



A mob stands at the ruins of Alex Manly's *Daily Record* office, destroyed November 10, 1898. Image courtesy of NC Office of Archives and History, 1898 Wilmington Race Riot Commission.

The museum will open an exhibit on March 19, 2013 focusing on the Wilmington race riot of 1898 and Fayetteville's connections to that event. The exhibit is scheduled to run through June 16, 2013, and is partially funded through a Project Support Grant from the Arts Council of Fayetteville/Cumberland County.

The Wilmington race riot is an important, yet largely overlooked, chapter in America's racial history. While the Civil War ended slavery, it did not overcome feelings or beliefs in racial superiority. The election of 1898 was dominated in North Carolina by a white supremacy campaign of the Democratic Party, which saw the establishment of White Government Union Clubs, formations of armed gangs to intimidate African Americans, Republicans and Populists, and the use of newspapers to fan the flame against the "abuses" of Republicans and "black rule." In Wilmington, this resulted in a "White Declaration of Independence" which led to the burning of a black newspaper office, a riot resulting in many deaths and injuries, the banishment of many black and Republican leaders, and the overthrow of elected Republican municipal leaders. The exhibit will explore Fayetteville's connections to this event – Fayetteville Independent Light Infantry members went to Wilmington immediately following the riot to help keep the peace, Fayetteville-raised author Charles Chesnutt wrote about the riot, and the white supremacy movement was well documented in the Fayetteville Observer.

Besides the exhibit, there will be a special program offered on April 14. LaRae Umfleet of the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources and author of *A Day of Blood: The Wilmington*

New Exhibit
March 19-
June 16, 2013



Above: Alex Manly, editor of Wilmington's leading black newspaper, *The Daily Record*. The offices of the *Record* were destroyed during the riot.

Race Riot of 1898, will speak about the riot in the museum's multi-purpose room at 2:00 p.m.

The Wilmington "riot" was not a spontaneous outbreak of violence. It was part of a larger campaign to reestablish white supremacy in government and society. As a result, a social order of segregation was established that would affect race relations for most of the twentieth century.



Preschool Program Gets a New Name

BY LEISA GREATHOUSE

Museum of the Cape Fear

Preschool Pals



Held the 2nd Tuesday of each month.
The program is **free** but registration is required to ensure plenty of materials are on hand.
Call 910.486.1330 to register.



<https://museumofthecapefear.ncdcr.gov>
or <http://bit.ly/MuseumOfTheCapeFear>



A new year and a new name for the Museum of the Cape Fear's preschool program for ages 3 to 5. Mommy, Me, and the Museum Make Three is now called Preschool Pals. The program is held the second Tuesday of every month and features a different theme each month. Feedback from parents and calls from grandmothers and fathers asking if someone other than mommy could bring a preschooler to the program led to the change. "The answer, of course, was yes," said Leisa Greathouse, Curator of Education. "We listened to our constituents, and the dedicated volunteer who plans the activities, and think the new name reflects community and leaves no doubt for parents that all are invited to participate," Greathouse continued.

The program involves age-appropriate crafts, games, stories or songs. "This year, we are adding a new element. Each month, a new state symbol will be revealed, and by December 2013, those who attended each month will have learned 12 of the state's official symbols. It's a great way to jump start a little North Carolina history and appreciation about our state," said Greathouse.

A special thanks to volunteer Nettie McQueen for taking over this program. Nettie is a retired elementary school teacher who has volunteered at the MCFHC for 20 years!

The program is **free** but we ask parents to call and register so plenty of materials are on hand for each child. For more information, contact the Museum of the Cape Fear at 910/486-1330. or visit www.ncculture.com.



Images from "Mommy, Me, and the Museum Make Three!" 2012. Themes included: "Bee My Honey" (Feb), "Trains!" (March), "Pirates!" (April), "You're a Grand Old Flag" (June), and "Christmas Around the World" (Dec).



Civil War Gallery Receives Updates

BY DAVID REID

In observance of the sesquicentennial of the American Civil War, we have been sprucing up three exhibit cases in our Civil War gallery. A fresh coat of paint, new images, a change in artifacts and more interpretive and descriptive labels have brightened up these cases. The cases are themed – “A Soldier’s Life,” “Civil War in Southeastern North Carolina,” and “The Confederate Rifle Factory.”

“A Soldier’s Life” contains some of the items carried by Union and Confederate soldiers in North Carolina. A haversack, cartridge pouches, weapons and uniform items are all included.

“Civil War in Southeastern North Carolina” focuses on the main areas of military action in our part of the state: Fort Fisher, blockade runners and the federal blockade and Sherman’s final march. A major addition to this case are more artifacts from the blockade runner *Modern Greece*, which ran aground off Fort Fisher and sank in 1862.

“The Confederate Rifle Factory” allows a comparison of four Fayetteville rifles, produced at the Fayetteville arsenal from 1861 to 1865. The appearance of the Fayetteville rifle changed over time as materials became scarcer. Also on display is a Fayetteville saber bayonet, produced in the early part of the war.

We are still working on these cases and will add further information – “Read more about it” cards will provide information about other Civil War sites in our area, encouraging visitors to physically travel to those sites or to take a look at their web pages.



Top: Preparing to install artifacts in the first Civil War gallery case.

Bottom: Museum carpenter, Jim Fredericksen installs a sword in one of the cases.



Have you recently retired or know someone who has? Are you looking to get involved in the community? Do you have any spare time and would like to do something constructive? Are you making a list of New Year’s resolutions? Consider volunteering at the Museum of the Cape Fear. A variety of positions are available. Time commitment is minimal so it doesn’t burden your schedule and we are very flexible. For more information and to schedule an orientation, please call Leisa Greathouse at 910-486-1330.



Volunteer Corner

BY LEISA GREATHOUSE

At the Volunteer Holiday Party on December 6, several volunteers were complimentary of staff and congratulated us on achievements that made 2012 a successful year. Specifically, a volunteer praised staff on "keeping the place going" after severe budget cuts took more than 50% of our co-workers. In response, museum staff assured volunteers that it is they who are "keeping the place going." Each day there are 3 to 7 volunteers working at the museum in a variety of positions: front desk, docent, running the preschool program, collections/research assistance, grounds keeping, organizing digital photos, clerical assistance, and sometimes assistance that is so small, it might go unnoticed.

This year, museum volunteers have generously donated over 3600 hours of their precious time. Thank you does not begin to express the depth of gratitude museum staff feel toward our 50 plus volunteers. They have embraced the museum complex and those of us fortunate enough to work here.

Finally, congratulations to Rusty Long, Lin Mendoza, and Kelly Noble upon finishing docent training.



Thank you to Mike Wallace & Dr. Keith Dupree for providing live Christmas music at our annual Volunteer Holiday Party!



Above Left: Long time volunteers listen intently as Volunteer Coordinator Leisa Greathouse gives remarks. Right: Volunteers strutted their stuff in our Christmas Fashion Show.



A round of applause for our Office Manager, Karen Wallace, who spiced up the Holiday Party with live music and a Christmas Fashion Show! Also thank you to our Gift Shop Manager, Betty Ray, for the beautiful and festive decorations!



Thank You to Our 2012 Donors & Sponsors!

Friends of the Lee County Library
St. Patrick's Church
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Mr. Daniel Maxwell, Jr.
Mr. Steve Kenney - In honor of
Ms. Rachel Dixon
Ms. Margaret Zatrow – On behalf of
the Beyersdorf Family

Join the MCFHC Foundation!

Your tax deductible donation enables us to continue to provide free cultural and educational programs, events, and exhibits!

Museum of the Cape Fear Historical Complex Foundation, Inc., Membership Form

Name _____

Address _____



Membership

- ☐ Individual \$25
☐ Family/Patron \$100
☐ Benefactor \$500
☐ Sustainer \$1,000

Corporate Levels:

- ☐ Museum \$500
☐ Ghost Tower \$1,000
☐ Poe House \$2,500
☐ Arsenal Park \$5,000

**If you would like to make a contribution, please write in the amount here. \$ _____*

Mail your tax-deductible check, payable to MCFHC, Inc., to Museum of the Cape Fear Historical Complex Foundation, Inc., P.O. Box 53784, Fayetteville, NC 28305.



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Visit us on the web at:

museumofthecapefear.ncdcr.gov

Museum Hours

Tuesday-Saturday 10-5

Sunday 1-5

1897 Poe House Tours

Tues-Fri 11:00, 1:00, 3:00

Saturday 10-5 on the hour

Sunday 1-5 on the hour

Museum Staff

David Reid
Administrator

Leisa Greathouse
Curator of Education

Megan Maxwell
1897 Poe House
Education Coordinator

Karen Wallace
Administrative
Assistant

Jim Frederickson
Carpenter

Weekend Staff
Cynthia Gates
Louise White
Maranda Keeney

**And more than 50
volunteers**



The Museum of the Cape Fear Historical Complex consists of a NC southeast regional history museum, the 1897 Poe House, and Arsenal Park. Two floors of exhibits present the rich history of southeastern North Carolina, from the Paleo-Indian period to the first decades of the 1900s in the Museum of the Cape Fear. The fully restored and furnished 1897 Poe House, home of E.A. Poe, a Fayetteville brick maker, offers a glimpse of early twentieth-century life and the changes that defined this era. Finally, Arsenal Park marks the site commissioned in 1838 by the federal government to manufacture and store arms. The arsenal was used by the Confederacy during the Civil War, and it was destroyed by Union troops under the command of General William T. Sherman in March of 1865. Admission to the Museum Complex is free.

Upcoming Events

January 24, 2013

12th Annual Civil War Quiz Bowl

Mark your calendars for the annual Civil War Quiz Bowl scheduled for Thursday January 24, 2013 at 6:00 pm at the Cumberland County Library Headquarters Branch. Contestants will test their knowledge of trivia, tactics and history as host Jim Greathouse assails them with questions covering all aspects of the War Between the States. The questions will challenge the most avid Civil War buff. Open to contestants of all ages, prizes will be awarded for both the adult and student (16 and under) winners. Registration will be accepted until all 20 spaces are filled. You can register at the door, or call the museum and sign up ahead of time. The Civil War Quiz Bowl is open to the public, with plenty of room for friends, family and spectators (no blurting out the answers please!). For more information and to register, contact Leisa Greathouse at 910-486-1330, or email leisa.greathouse@ncdcr.gov. FREE!

February 23, 2013

Fayetteville's

African American History

From their first appearance in the county's

tax records of 1754 to present day, Professor Charles Anderson will discuss Fayetteville's African American history with focus on the Leary and Chesnutt families and E.E. Smith. FREE! 2:00 pm

March 3, 2013

Ladies of Regency 1812 Event

As part of the War of 1812 Bicentennial, the museum is hosting an afternoon about ladies from the regency period. Delight in an atmosphere of the days of Jane Austen: play games, learn period dancing, and taste some of the foods of the era. This program is also being held in conjunction with Women's History month. FREE!

April 6, 2013

"Skirmishes & Shortages: NC in 1863" A Civil War Living History

This event will feature re-enactors portraying both military personnel and civilians, focusing on life in the army and on the homefront during the harsh year of 1863. Musket and artillery demonstrations, open-fire cooking, cartridge rolling, period music, and a tin type photographer are just a few of the things you will see! More details to be announced! FREE!

The Museum of the Cape Fear Historical Complex is part of the NC Department of Cultural Resources/Division of State History Museums.